



# Ranger Dispatch

## Bureau of Ranger Services

251 Causeway Street • Boston, MA • (617) 626-4963

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Winter 2008

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## No Child Left Inside & The Great Park Pursuit: *Reconnecting Families with Nature*



### **What is *No Child Left Inside*?**

It's a promise, a pledge designed to help today's children reconnect with the great outdoors, while building the next generation of environmental stewards. *The Great Park Pursuit* is part of the "No Child Left Inside" initiative, designed to encourage Massachusetts families and visitors to enjoy all the recreational resources and outdoor activities that the Massachusetts state parks system has to offer!

From health and fitness, to learning and fun, to creating great family memories – the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation wants to introduce residents and visitors to the more than 400 special places across the state to be discovered, treasured and shared.

The Great Park Pursuit is a team-based adventure activity. Participating teams are challenged to visit different state forests and parks over a six-week period as part of a fun family adventure. Teams will get clues weekly to where the next

event will be held. At the events park rangers will help them participate in outdoor recreation challenges as well as enjoy skill-building and nature-based learning activities.

The first event will take place on Saturday, May 10th at Borderland State Park. Each week is filled with new outdoor adventures to discover and enjoy. Teams will hike along forested trails, learn to fish, pitch a tent and roast s'mores, discover secrets of the coast, and even ride in a horse drawn wagon! Teams will compete for the grand prize packages.

The DCR is gearing up for this year's event, and we look forward to reuniting with teams from last year's event, as well as meeting new teams, as we all explore our state forests and parks on this great family adventure!

Registration will begin in mid-April. ☞



Register to play at  
[www.greatparkpursuit.org](http://www.greatparkpursuit.org)

## First Day Festivities Festoon State and Urban Parks

*Barbara Buls, Acting Deputy Chief; Bureau of Ranger Services, Interpretive Services*

What a year 2007 was for the *No Child Left Inside* initiative in our parks! We started off with a bang, hosting the Great Park Pursuit (GPP) in May and June, moved onto the Wachusett Kid's Fest in September, and for the winter, began the New Year in full force with First Day Hikes.

Historically an Urban Parks tradition, we decided to expand this successful program by instituting First Day Hikes in State Parks. These hikes have long been very popular in the Blue Hills and Breakheart Reservation, and became a great experiment for parks outside of Rt. 128. State Parks Hikes were held in the following locations:

### Southeast Region

Waquoit Bay National  
Estuarine Research Reserve  
Ellisville Harbor State Park  
Massasoit State Park

### Northeast Region

Walden Pond State Reservation  
Halibut Point State Park

### Central Region

Blackstone River and Canal  
Heritage State Park  
Moore State Park  
Dunn State Park

### Western Region

DAR State Forest  
Kenneth Dubuque Memorial  
State Forest

The weather cooperated by sending us various conditions; pouring rain at Halibut Point, crunchy snow underfoot at Walden Pond, and fluffy New Year's snow in many of the locations – the hike at Dubuque was actually a snow shoe trip! The photos below show the beauty that winter creates in our forests.

Staff was very cooperative in creating avenues to provide this programming, and themes of hikes rounded out the experience – seal viewing in Ellisville Harbor, cardiac health and the value of winter exercise at Moore, landscape use and forest regrowth history at Dubuque, not to mention

the life and teachings of our native son, Henry David Thoreau, at Walden Pond.

Hot chocolate was distributed by the Bureau, and supplemented by other delectables such as roasted chestnuts and chestnut/pumpkin soup to emphasize “healthy eating” to our park visitors.

State-wide, over 1200 visitors attended the First Day Hikes, with the Blue Hills at 700 attendees, Breakheart with 80, and a State Parks total attendance of over 470. GPP 2007 participants were notified and many joined in the fun of winter programming.

As we go deep into the winter months, we can look forward to the Great Park Pursuit 2008 which will feature the Civilian Conservation Corps 75th Anniversary. In the meantime, visitors are encouraged to continue using our beautiful properties even in the throes of winter. Happy New Year! ☾



## A Snowy Start to the New Year

*By Lieutenant Kathryn Ward, Quabbin Highlands District*

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, the forecast for the 'Snow Belt' called for heavy snow with snow accumulating in Gardner at over an inch per hour. At 11:00 am the snow began and Bill Schold, Bill Adams, Sue Sienkiewicz and I were already preparing for our First Day Hikers to arrive. Sue started and stoked a welcoming fire in the large stone fireplace in the Pond House while Bill and Bill worked to keep up with clearing the snow from the walkways. Tips on getting healthy and being 'green' awaited the guests along with hot chocolate. Soon people were shaking off the snow and stamping their boots entering the Pond House to meet up with the other like-minded first-dayers.

At 12:00 sharp, the group gathered on the front steps for a welcome, an overview of the day's event, and a group picture. Forty-one people were on the pond loop hike including such notables as Director Priscilla Geigis, District Manager Evelyn Jimenez, a volunteer from AMC Cees Vaneijk, as well as a family that attended all of last year's Great Park Pursuit events, and my little black Labrador, Lady. Hikers followed the large orange coat and snowshoe footprints of the ranger through the falling snow. Along the 1.5 mile route we stopped a few times and talked about recreation at Dunn Pond, the No Child Left Inside initiative, the Great Park Pursuit, and




New Year's resolutions. Kids said they felt like they were in the movie Narnia and a few pulled tree boughs full of snow to 'snow' their friends or the ranger. Sue guided a small group on a shortcut back early, but the majority trekked the entire 1.5 hours.

Upon their return, the staff greeted and congratulated all of the hikers and



handed out the "I hiked in a state park on New Year's Day" stickers. The group sat by the fire enjoying hot chocolate and had conversation about what they saw on the trail. Kids examined the route they hiked on the big map and showed their parents how far they went. Some folks wrote on a big board what their New Year's resolutions were or what they are doing to be 'green'.

By 2:00 pm the ice rink had a blanket of snow and the hikers' tracks were quickly disappearing. Many thanks were offered for a great event and the group parted with a renewed spirit of getting outdoors more often in the New Year. 

### **SEASONAL HIRING**

The flyers are now available for distribution wherever good candidates can be found.

They cover openings for State & Urban Rangers, Boston Harbor Island Rangers, a supervisory Ranger II for the Islands, BHI Ranger Kayaker and State Park Interpreter.

Please go to the link below to view and print out the flyers.

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/interp/interp.htm#job>



## MAPLE SUGARING EVENTS

March is maple sugaring time in New England, and plans are underway for this year's maple sugaring programs in the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) state and urban parks. The following locations accept and encourage reservations for organized educational and nonprofit groups beginning this month. No reservations are necessary for individuals or families who want to attend DCR's maple sugaring events.

- **Maple Sugar Days.**

Massachusetts Audubon Society's Blue Hills Trailside Museum in Milton offers group tours of maple sugaring techniques from Brookwood Farm in the Blue Hills Reservation from mid-February through March. Learn the process of turning sap to sugar, see a real evaporator, and sample a traditional maple syrup snack. Contact the Blue Hills Trailside Museum (617-333-0690) for further information and to make reservations. Also, the public is invited to attend Maple Sugar Days on March 8 & 9, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3-12.

- **Breakheart Reservation in Saugus** offers free programs for schools and nonprofit groups Monday-Friday, March 10-March 14. Tours include tree

identification, tappings, history of maple sugaring, wood harvesting, sap boiling, and sampling of real maple syrup on pancakes and popcorn. These activities are open to the public on March 15 & 16, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., suggested donation is \$5 per person (or \$4 if you bring a canned good for contribution to a local food bank!). Pre-registration for school groups and non-profits is required and can be arranged by phone (781-438-1388) Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- **Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge** offers maple sugaring demonstrations and lessons in how to make your own maple syrup at home, hosted by the Blackstone Valley Sugaring Association. Visitors can watch syrup being made, sample maple products, see trees being tapped, participate in gathering sap, and visit the park's sugar house. Limited group tours will be offered during the first three weekends in March (March 1 & 2, March 8 & 9, and March 15 & 16) beginning at 9 a.m. Contact the Blackstone Valley Sugaring Association (508-278-5274) or [www.blackstonevalleysugaring.org](http://www.blackstonevalleysugaring.org)

- **D.A.R. State Forest in Goshen** will arrange maple

sugaring tours at the Krug Sugarbush for school groups, beginning the second week in March. Groups can schedule tours in either the morning (after 10 a.m.) or afternoon, but should contact D.A.R. no earlier than a week in advance to allow for the best prediction of weather and sugaring conditions. Call 413-268-7098.

For more information on these and other events, please visit DCR's website at

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/events.htm>

CS



*Captain Maggi Brown demonstrates maple sugaring to a young visitor at the Blue Hills Trailside Museum in Milton.*

## Rangers Ride Again

We are excited to announce that this year we will be bringing back the mounted unit to DCR! For those of you who weren't aware, both the MDC and DEM had mounted units in years past that were phased out due to budget shortfalls; but thanks to legislative support they will return this spring.

DCR will be purchasing up to three horses this spring along with a truck and 2 trailers. The horses will be boarded at a nearby stable in the Blue Hills and patrols will emanate from there. Mounted Rangers will be patrolling the Blue Hills along with other DCR facilities throughout Eastern Massachusetts.

The program will be assigned to the Bureau and directly supervised by Deputy Chief Chris Williams who is setting up the unit in consultation with several former MDC and DEM mounted program staff. A Ranger II position will be filled this Spring to assist with daily horse care, stable relations, and patrols. Additional Ranger positions are being recommended for the next fiscal year. Rangers from outside the unit who have been 'certified' for mounted patrol will be occasionally utilized to maintain planned patrol levels. ☞

## Park Watch Magnets Appearing on a Refrigerator Near You!

Deputy Chief Adam Parr and Ranger John Garvey, with the assistance of the DCR sign shop and graphics office have produced a magnet to hand out promoting Park Watch.



Similar to Neighborhood Crime Watch, Park Watch was developed to encourage park visitors, user groups, and neighbors to be 'eyes and ears' for the parks to report problems, suspicious activities, and safety concerns. The toll free phone number, 1-866-PKWATCH, is answered by the rangers at the State House base and the reports are relayed to the appropriate Regional Ranger. ☞

### WANTED

**School Crossing Guards.** The DCR is hiring school Crossing Guards to work part-time in selected areas throughout Boston and greater Boston. Please call Christine Kurker at 617-626-1421 for more information.

## DCR SAR Managers Update Skills

Rangers who function as search managers have recently started a series of certified trainings to update or augment their skills. Offered by Northeast Wilderness Search and Rescue, courses are being held at the Massachusetts State Police Academy through the spring. Based on their individual needs, Ranger III's Steve Ouellette, Jenn Stowe, Jeanne Gilleney-DeCenzo, and Bob Rando are attending along with Curt Rudge, Chris Williams, and Kevin Tucker. Courses include 'Managing the Lost Person Incident', 'Urban Search Management', 'SAR Planning', and 'C.A.S.I.E. III', the SAR management software program. ☞

### Calling all Rangers!

Ranger Kathy Ward is collecting photographs of park rangers in action in hopes of creating a slide show or short promotional video. If you have photographs you would like to contribute, please send in digital format on a CD to: Clinton Field Office, Attn: Kathy Ward, PO Box 155, Clinton, MA 01510. If you like, include a written or electronic note on who took the photograph(s) so they may be credited.



massachusetts environmental education society


2008 conference: march 5, college of the holy cross, worcester

details: [www.massmees.org](http://www.massmees.org)

The Park Passport Program has been moving full steam ahead. Jason Hunt, Kathy Ward and Peter Michaels have all been working hard to see the program come to fruition. Here are some updates since our last report:

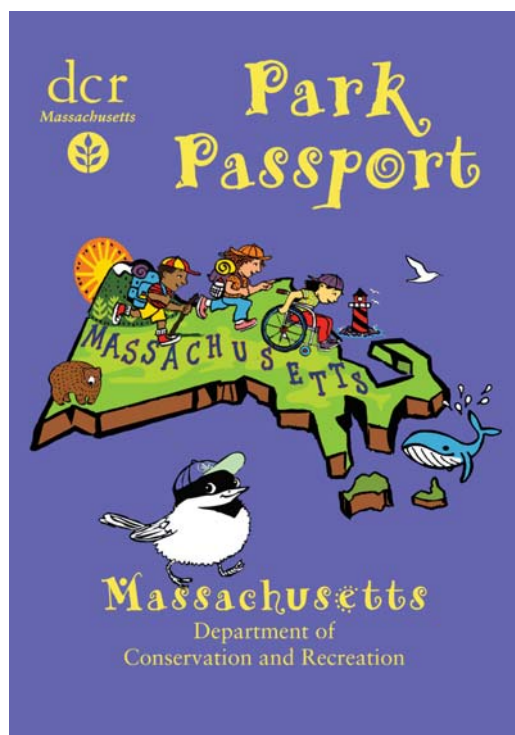
1. The Passport release date has been moved to May 2008
2. Stickers included with the passport will depict recreational activities instead of a park stamp image
3. Bureaus will receive stickers instead of stamps (Ranger Services, Fire, Universal Access)
4. Stamps will be housed in Passport Boxes (created by Skinner Park Crew; Mike Smyth, Dave Rogalski and Bob Findlater). The boxes were incorporated into the program to alleviate dependency on park staff to have to distribute stamps.

5. A stamp making machine has been acquired by the agency to create stamps in house. This is cost effective and will make replacing stamps easy and quick.
6. The Passport design has been finalized and is now being laid out by designer Martin Beveridge for printing.
7. Peter Michaels has been designated as Park Passport “Program Manager”
8. The park stamps are almost complete. They have been created by Micha Archer and look incredible!
9. A website component of the program is under development.

Jason, Kathy and Pete will be presenting an update of the program at the Supervisor's Academy in April and will be demonstrating passport box installation methods. This has been a very exciting project to work on and we are all looking forward to the release date in May. 



### Passport Stamp




### Passport Cover



### Passport Box



## Seasonal Ranger Academies TBA

Planning has begun for the annual academies. Held previous to Memorial Day for the State Park Rangers and prior to the busier season for the Urban and Boston Harbor Island Rangers, the academies will continue to provide required training for a successful, effective, and safe season. Rangers Jennifer Stowe and Alex Hall have volunteered to steer the effort and have already started the discussions on program content and academy logistics. All rangers are encouraged to suggest course ideas, skill set needs, and to volunteer to assist in many ways. 

## 2008 Mooring Schedule

The lottery for public moorings at Poor Man's Landing in the Charles River Basin will begin shortly. This program is a unique and inexpensive option for boaters during the summer months. The cost for use of a mooring in this program is just \$6 per foot of the vessel length. Please call 617-626-1416 for more information on this program, and to obtain an application.

Applications Available: Mar 20 – May 1

All Applications In By: May 2, 2008

Date of Lottery: May 2, 2008

Mooring Season: May 15 – Nov 13

All Moorings out of the Water by: Nov 14


## 2007 NEPRA Conference

On November 29, 2007, the New England Park Ranger Association, aka NEPRA, hosted its annual conference at the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster. The event was attended by over 50 guests, representing such agencies as the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Danvers Park System, and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The Keynote Speaker, former DCR Commissioner Kathy Abbott, spoke about the importance of partnering within the ranger profession. Following that, Ed Rizzotto of the National Park Service presented a screening of the film "The Thin Green Line", which documents the challenges and dangers faced by park rangers around the world.

After a hearty catered buffet lunch/networking session, the Conference resumed with two more guest speakers. Sergeant McCarthy of the Massachusetts State Police gave an introduction to self defense techniques. After that, LT Hermes, also of the MSP, provided instruction and guidance on writing effective reports, and how to prepare for courtroom proceedings.

Before wrapping up the conference, winners of the raffle prizes, which included a place to stay in Costa Rica, were announced. A tour of the host facility, owned and operated by the Trustees of Reservations, was offered to guests before their departure.

This year's conference is tentatively set for November 20, same location, so be sure to mark your calendars! 

*Steve Carlin, Supervisor of Great Brook Farm State Park, and DCR Ranger Liann Graff and look over the raffle prizes.*



## Going the Extra Mile

By Captain Jennifer Stowe, Northeast Region

***“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others.” – Martin Luther King***

On the job, park rangers face long hours, inclement weather, and large crowds to say the least. Have you ever wondered what rangers do on their down time? A recent inquiry found four rangers that choose to spend some of their free time in the service of others. Why do they do it? For one, it’s a way for a family to deal with a personal loss and in turn help others. For another, it’s a way to give back to a group who can’t defend themselves. As you read each of these stories, take a moment to consider how you could volunteer. Whether it be a one time contribution or a weekly mission, keep in mind the words of Mahatma Ghandi when he said *“The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others”*

### **Captain Mike Nelson, Division of Urban Parks, North Region**

***“Susan G. Komen for the Cure”*** is an organization that is dedicated to fighting breast cancer. Their main source of income is the Komen Race for the Cure, which is a 5K Road Race/Walk that is held in over 100 locations all over the country and internationally. The race raises money for breast cancer awareness, research, and all aspects of quality care. Mike lost his mother after a 10 year battle with cancer in August, 2005, a couple weeks before her

68<sup>th</sup> birthday. During the 10 years of treatment, she took part in clinical trials that were on the cutting edge of cancer treatment. By all accounts, she was a huge success story for Mass General Hospital, and her life was extended years beyond expectation, while her quality of life never suffered...In September 2006, Mike and his family participated in their 1<sup>st</sup> Komen Race for the Cure in their mother’s memory and they plan to continue participating for many years to come. They welcome anyone else who would like to join them. For more information, go to [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org)

### **Lt. Jason Hunt, Division of State Parks, Central Region**

***“Angel fund”- “CHIP”***... Not many people know that Lt. Jason Hunt is a member of the Mason Organization. Through this group he has worked on several charities. Included in this charitable work is the “Angel Fund” in which they raise money to purchase jackets, pants, etc. for children who do not have them. How it works is a teacher comes to the group privately with a request for a student he/she may have seen without something. No questions asked, the group will go out and buy whatever that child needs. Another program is the “CHIP” program or child identification program. The group will go to a school that requests it and take videos, DNA, and dental impressions and give all items to a parent/guardian for that time when

he/she may go missing. Jason and his wife have been blessed this year with a beautiful baby girl, and have devoted much of his free time with her, but plans on continuing his work with the Mason organization when time allows.

### **Lt. Kathy Ward, Division of State Parks, Central Region**

***“Getting dirty”***... Kathy has spent much of her free time this past year volunteering for the Trustees of Reservations, the oldest conservation organization in the nation! She has really enjoyed volunteering at the Stevens-Coolidge place planting flowers in the French garden, deadheading in the perennial garden and pruning and watering in the greenhouse and gardens. Want to see some pictures of this former estate? Go to [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org). Just recently, Kathy has begun the process of volunteering with Big Brothers, Big Sisters. She has submitted an application, had the interview, and is currently waiting for a Little Sister. The organization takes their match placements seriously and Kathy is very excited to get started. Want to make a difference yourself? Go to [www.bbbs.org](http://www.bbbs.org). Both of these organizations are on the list of approved non-profits for the State Employees Responding as Volunteers (SERV) program.



# Ranger Dispatch


Bureau of Ranger Services

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## Captain Jennifer Stowe, Division of State Parks, Northeast Region

*“Horsing around”....* For those who know me, you are well aware of my passion for our four legged friends. Conversations with me usually end up talking about Emmitt (SAR dog), Elliot or that “crazy” horse Oliver. I consider myself lucky and privileged to have these wonderful pets in my

life. Last winter, I attended a few equine seminars hosted by the MSPCA at Nevins Farm and my eyes were opened to the wonderful work that the MSPCA does for this state. I signed up to volunteer for the equine/ farmyard animal division at the Methuen complex and haven’t looked back. One day a week, is spent at the farm, where I help the incredible staff, with morning chores, grooming, repairs, etc. The

MSPCA takes in animals on a daily basis. Some are surrendered by owners who can no longer care for their pet, and others are acquired through cases of neglect and/or abuse. The MSPCA relies on fundraising, donations and volunteers to provide for all of these animals, and to rehabilitate and place in new homes. For more information go to [www.MSPCA.org](http://www.MSPCA.org) 



*Captain Jennifer Stowe with “Monty”, who is awaiting adoption at the MSPCA at Nevins Farm*

## Celebrate the Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy

By Alec Gillman, VSS Mount Greylock SR/DCR CCC Program Committee Coordinator

**\*Editor's Note:** This is part one of a three part series on the Civilian Conservation Corps, being published in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of the CCC.

During the Great Depression, from 1933-42, one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's first New Deal initiatives was the creation of Emergency Conservation Work (ECW), popularly known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). This federal program provided critical resources for conservation and recreation on public lands and work opportunities for unemployed young men and veterans.

The CCC program in Massachusetts had about 65 camps and enrolled 100,000 men, working on camp construction, road building, forestry, fire hazard reduction, pest control, wildlife habitat enhancement, and recreation area development, mostly on state forest land. 2008 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this remarkable public program. Consider your involvement in celebrating and interpreting the legacy that served as a catalyst; to develop tenants of modern conservation, which dramatically changed America's natural resource treasures, and formed a cornerstone of the Massachusetts State Park system.

### Roosevelt's Tree Army

Throughout his early political career in New York state Franklin D. Roosevelt spearheaded programs conserving forests, fish and game and pioneered legislation for managed forestry and reforestation. An a prelude to the Corps, when governor in 1931, Roosevelt supported a temporary emergency relief administration, which hired the unemployed to work in reforestation projects clearing underbrush, fighting fires, controlling insects, constructing roads and trails, improving forest ponds and lakes, and developing recreation facilities.

Across the nation development of state parks was in its infancy. In 1921 only 19 states had had any kind of state park system. By 1925 all 48 states had begun to formulate some park development plans, but the depression had halted most of their developmental work. During the Great Depression, similarly, other states, including California, Washington, Virginia, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania (under the direction of Governor Gifford Pinchot, and former first Chief of the US Forest Service), Michigan, and Indiana, were hiring or planning for the unemployed to do conservation work.

Shortly after taking office in March of 1933 the Roosevelt introduced an unemployment relief bill for the employment of men on public works projects and conservation tasks urging:

*This enterprise is an established part of our national policy. It will conserve our precious natural resources. It will pay dividends to the present and future generations. It will make improvements in national and state domains which have been largely forgotten in the past few years of industrial development*

Soon after it passed, in less than one month, it was implemented in April. The Army was responsible for operating and supervising the camps, while the National Park Service and US Forest Service were to be responsible for the work projects. Through their efforts there was a three fold increase in the number of visitors to state parks by 1936. *CG*

**\*Part 2 of this series will be published in the next edition of the Ranger Dispatch**



1933 -



## State House Detachment

*By Sean P. Dowd, State House Ranger*


Belated Happy New Year wishes to our fellow DCR employees from all of us with the State House Rangers. We find ourselves now in the post-holiday doldrums bringing the number of tourists down, but unabated are our visitors from Hollywood.

The State House has undergone several set changes in recent months, playing host to two major motion picture productions. Perhaps with no small hint of irony, for several days the State House was even made up to resemble the Vatican as part of a new 'Pink Panther' movie. Due for release this fall 'The Lonely Maiden' starring Morgan Freeman and Christopher Walken was also filmed at State House over the winter.

As ever, the Legislature keeps things active with

recent considerations of note including the state budget and a new law banning motorists from cell phone use while driving. The Governor's annual State of the State address drew thousands of spectators to the house chambers and beyond as video screens and audio relay provided for viewing in other areas of the building.

State House Rangers recently assisted State Police and Secret Service during a visit by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to Governor Deval Patrick.

Finally, we would like to ask you all to keep in your thoughts Captain Steven Owens of the State House Detachment as he recovers from recent surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery. 



## Chief's Corner *By Curt Rudge, Chief Ranger*

Under the topic of expanding our world, DCR is an active member of a number of new projects, and the Bureau of Ranger Services has been chosen to be a key player as these projects unfold. Governor Deval Patrick created the Massachusetts Mobility Compact with a vision "To promote and coordinate planning, design, construction and operations" in a manner that ".....will increase the safe mobility of people throughout the commonwealth". What this means to us is that we will be establishing a list of all critical DCR infrastructure including dams, bridges and roadways. Once the list is complete a process will be introduced to evaluate and prioritize the security aspect of each and recommend measures to assure their security.

Another new initiative by the administration is the Massachusetts Recovery Alliance under the umbrella of MEMA. Again the bureau is taking a lead role in this effort and is a member of the Infrastructure and Community Planning Subcommittee. Specifically, the Alliance is charged with putting together a plan to help communities recover from a natural or man-made disaster. Currently, plans are in place to deal with mitigation, preparation and response, but the recovery piece has not been well organized and the post Katrina situation has exposed the need.

And under the topic of what's old is new, we are very excited about bringing back our mounted unit. As most of you remember, both DEM and MDC had mounted units some years back but both were disbanded due to a lack of funding. Thanks to the efforts of many, the legislature has brought back mounted patrols to DCR. Although you will find more about the unit elsewhere in this newsletter, I just wanted to note the return and identify Deputy Chief Williams as the supervisor and lead person for the program.

Finally, back under the topic of expansion, we are thrilled that eight new park ranger positions will be filled this spring under the department's beaches initiative. This is the first time in years that such a significant move forward has been made to promote the duties of park rangers and we are grateful for the support Commissioner Rick Sullivan has demonstrated for our program. The challenges associated with all these initiatives are significant, such as equipping and training new staff or assembling everything necessary to restart a mounted unit, but I am absolutely certain that we welcome with enthusiasm each challenge and look forward to our future. ☸

Congratulations are in order for State House Ranger Kim Antonelli for preventing a potentially dangerous situation on Monday, February 11, when an identified suspect of a series of threatening phone calls directed at a state legislator attempted to gain access to the State House. Ranger Antonelli recognized and detained the individual until State Police arrived. Kudos to Ranger Antonelli on her vigilance and dedication to duty. ☸

## We want to hear from you!!

Comments, thoughts and suggestions are always welcome, as are contributions. If you have something you'd like to share in this Newsletter, please send it in!

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dcr  
Massachusetts



*It's Your Nature*